

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 /021 W

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P 141646Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5687

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 14899

WASHDC FOR BIC/OIM/NE/KEMP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, UK

SUBJECT: INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR ELECTRICAL

GENERATION JEEP - APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 1975

REF: STATE 248328

1. OIM WILL WISH TO CONSULT LONDON'S 8508 (LOU), JULY 1974, FOR BACKGROUND ON THE U.K. ELECTRICAL POWER GENERATING MACHINERY SECTOR.
2. SEE LONDON'S A-401, MAY 20, 1974, FOR DETAILED INFORMATION ON U.K. ELECTRIC POWER PARAMETERS. U.S. POWER GENERATION EQUIPMENT MOST SUITABLE FOR PROMOTION IN UK MARKET IS IN FIELD OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRIAL/INSTITUTIONAL APPLICATIONS, AS OPPOSED TO UTILITIES, FOR STANDBY CAPACITY. FOUR GENERAL AREAS OF USAGE ARE HOUSEHOLDERS AND SMALL BUSINESSES (1 KW PLANT); SUPERMARKETS AND LARGE STORES (300-500 KW); HOSPITALS AND HOTELS (500 KW); AND FACTORIES (100 TO 5,000 KW DEPENDING ON SIZE OF OPERATION). THE TWO UTILITIES, CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD (CEGB) AND SOUTH OF SCOTLAND BOARD, USE 20 MW OR LARGER STANDBY GAS TURBINES GENERALLY INSTALLED WITH EACH 500 MW POWER STATION FOR PEAK SHAVING PURPOSES. CONTROLGEAR AND SWITCHGEAR SUITABLE FOR PROMOTION IS THAT INTEGRALLY ASSOCIATED WITH RELATIVELY SMALL GENERATION EQUIPMENT NOTED ABOVE.

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3. UTILITY CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS DO NOT EXIST IN UK

AS THEY DO IN US. UK UTILITIES THEMSELVES DO ALL CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION OF GENERATING CAPACITY. POTENTIAL US EXPORT CUSTOMERS, THEREFORE, ARE TO BE FOUND IN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL/HOMEOWNER SECTORS. SHOULD BE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT UK INDUSTRY SOURCES TELL US DEMAND FOR STANDBY CAPACITY PEAKED DURING PAST THREE YEARS OF UNCERTAIN UTILITY POWER, ESPECIALLY DURING WINTERS, AND IS NOW DECLINING. MUCH OF DEMAND FOR STANDBY EQUIPMENT IN RECENT PAST WAS DUE PRIMARILY TO LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN UTILITIES RATHER THAN ACTUAL NEED FOR CAPACITY ON IRREGULAR BASIS. AS PREVIOUSLY NOTED IN LONDON'S A-278, MARKET PROSPECTS CONTINUE REASONABLY GOOD BUT PERIOD OF COMPARATIVELY HEAVY DEMAND IS BELIEVED TO BE OVER. NO DATA ARE AVAILABLE ON INVESTMENT IN INDEPENDENT INDUSTRIAL POWER GENERATION TO DATE.

4. REGARDING INDUSTRIAL MARKET, UK PAPER MILLS OF MEDIUM TO LARGE SIZE NORMALLY MEET THEIR ENERGY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTRICITY AND STEAM ALMOST ENTIRELY FROM THEIR OWN STEAM TURBINE GENERATING PLANTS. IRON, STEEL AND CHEMICAL PLANTS ON AVERAGE RECEIVE 80 PER CENT OF THEIR POWER FROM UTILITY SOURCES, AND REMAINDER FROM INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED CAPACITY. LONGER-TERM PROSPECTS UNRELATED TO CURRENT POWER CRISES THUS WOULD APPEAR TO BE REASONABLY GOOD IN THOSE INDUSTRIES. CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5688

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INDUSTRIES TELLS US THAT UK UNIVERSE OF RELATIVELY
LARGE INDUSTRIAL FIRMS GENERATING OWN POWER TOTALS
185; FURTHER DETAILED BREAKDOWN IS NOT AVAILABLE
HOWEVER. FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY
IN GWH GENERATED BY SELECTED INDUSTRY FROM PRIVATE
SOURCES FOR THE YEARS 1970-72 (SOURCE: UNITED KINGDOM
ENERGY STATISTICS 1973):

INDUSTRY	1970	1971	1972
IRON AND STEEL	2,700	2,728	2,587
CHEMICAL	11,098	11,526	11,506
PAPER	2,965	2,671	2,786

CHEMICAL SECTOR INCLUDES UK ATOMIC ENERGY AUTHORITY
(UKAEA) AND BRITISH NUCLEAR FUELS PROTOTYPE NUCLEAR
REACTORS (APPROX. 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL). TOTAL PRIVATE
INDUSTRIAL POWER GENERATION IN THOSE YEARS WAS 20,215
GWH, 20,092 GWH AND 20,165 GWH.

5. LATEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY INDICATES
THAT LEAD ACID AND NICKEL CADMIUM (PARTICULARLY LATTER)
ARE BATTERY TYPES MOST UTILIZED IN UK FOR STANDBY
EMERGENCY LIGHTING BY HOSPITALS, THEATRES, SHIPS AND
OIL RIGS. AVAILABLE NICKEL CADMIUM BATTERIES RANGE IN
SIZE FROM ONE QUARTER INCH DIAMETER "BUTTON" CELLS OF
A FEW MILLIAMPERE HOURS CAPACITY TO YERD-LONG 500 AH
UNITS FOR LARGE STATIONARY AND MARINE APPLICATIONS.
TWENTY-YEAR LIFETIMES ARE NOT UNUSUAL. INASMUCH AS
POWER SEMICONDUCTORS PERMIT CHANGING AC TO DC AND VICE
VERSA, "REVERSIBLE INVERTERS" ARE USED WITH BATTERIES
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TO SUPPLY 240V AC OVER EXISTING WIRING. ADVANCED
BATTERY TYPES UNDER DEVELOPMENT RECENTLY AND WHICH ARE
EXPECTED TO COME INCREASINGLY INTO USE INCLUDE FUEL CELL
SODIUM SULPHUR CELLS AND ZINC-AIR BATTERIES. LATTER
TYPE FOR EXAMPLE HAS ENERGY DENSITY OF 140 WATT/HOURS OR
MORE PER POUND, COMPARED WITH 8-18 WATT/HOURS PER POUND
FOR LEAD ACID BATTERY AND 35 WATT/HOURS PER POUND FOR
LECLANCHE BATTERY.

6. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS BV COB NOVEMBER 15 WITH EMHASSY
RECOMMENDATIONS ON RECRUITMENT FOR JEEP.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON14899
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740329-0021
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741144/aaaabkwz.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 248328
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 NOV 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR ELECTRICAL GENERATION JEEP - APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 1975
TAGS: BEXP, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005